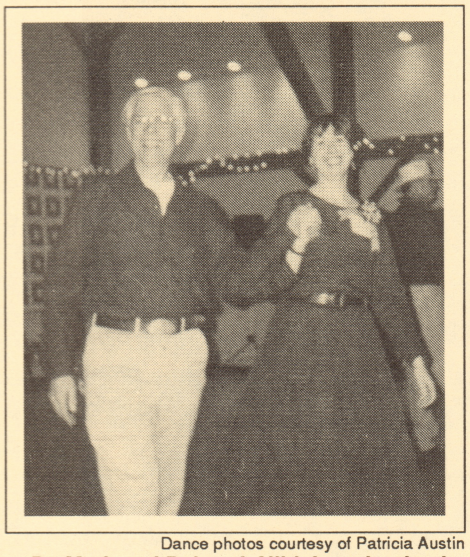
Genealogical Society
of Washtenaw County, Mich., Inc.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MAY 1995

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS



Dance photos courtesy of Patricia Austin

Dr. Mark and Deborah Hildebrandt take the floor at the barn dance. Deborah was general chair.

GARY KUEHNLE TO TALK ABOUT WCHS COLLECTION AT ANNUAL POTLUCK

The Washtenaw County Historical Society annual meeting and potluck dinner will be held Wednesday, May 31, at the Dixboro United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 5221 Church Street in Dixboro.

Gary Kuehnle of Chelsea, an antique appraiser who was WCHS collections chairman in the mid-1980s and a consultant to WCHS since then, will talk about the Society's collection of artifacts.

Come at 6 p.m. for a social hour around the punch bowl. Dinner planned at 7 p.m. and Kuehnle's talk at 8 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass serving 8-10 persons, your own dishes and table service. Beverages will be provided.

There will be election of officers and voting on Bylaws changes. (See pages 7-8 for proposed changes.)

The WCHS signature quilt will be available for signing at $25 each. When all the squares are filled the Faculty Women's Club Quilting Group will quilt it for us and we'll hang it in the museum.

An annual report listing all museum donors to date since the Society decided in September 1989 to pursue establishing a museum in the Kellogg-Warden house will be available.

Anyone unable to attend who wants a copy of the annual report may call or write President Patricia Austin, 1931 Coronada Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or telephone 663-5281.

ANNUAL BUS TOUR TO VISIT RURAL SHARON TOWNSHIP, LUNCH AT 1876 SHARON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The WCHS annual bus tour Saturday, June 10 will be a recreation of a tour of Sharon Township planned in 1947 by the late Emil Lorch, University of Michigan professor of architecture.

Professor Lorch drew artistic pictorial maps of the tour stops along the route. Susan Wineberg, WCHS vice-president, found the maps at the Bentley Library.

This year's tour will be conducted by Professors Ted Ligibel and Robert Ward of the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University.

Tourgoers will see surviving structures such as the Porter-Keeler-Esch farm, the 1836 Irwin farm, Sharon Mills and a Gothic homestead.

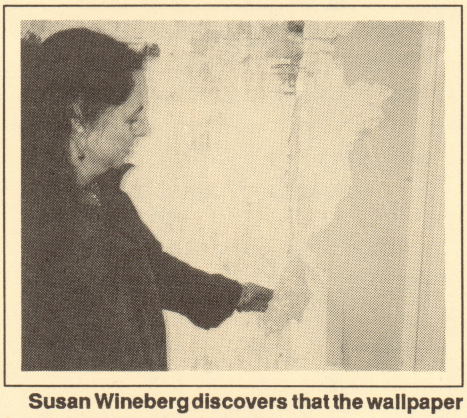
The evolution of farmsteads and barn markings will be discussed as well as the history of the settlement of Sharon.

Women of the 1876 Sharon United Methodist Church (formerly Salem Evangelical) at M-52 and Pleasant Lake Roads will serve luncheon. The church and cemetery are also part of the tour.

Tourgoers will board the bus at 8:45 a.m. at the Pioneer High School parking lot near the bus shelter on Saline Road. The fee is $25 each for WCHS members, $30 each for non-members, 45 seats available. Prepaid advance reservations required by June 1. See coupon on page 9. Information: Ms. Wineberg, 668-7470.

KAREN'S COLUMN

MUSEUM HOUSE SURPRISE--WALLPAPER HUNG BACKWARD; NEED VOLUNTEERS TO REMOVE PAPER, CLEAN UP YARD



Susan Wineberg discovers that the wallpaper has been hung backwards.

The Museum house that we are renovating usually has a surprise or two for us. Most recently we discovered that the wall paper in the parlor was hung with the patterned side facing the wall.

Several different patterns were found, suggesting that miscellaneous unmatched rolls were used, probably leftovers used for economy. They all matched when put on the wall wrong side out!

Over this paper are several coats of paint. We don't know whether the painting was done the same time the paper was put up, or later.

Plans for the interior call for the paper to be removed, the walls patched and the plaster given a fresh coat of paint. On Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.m. you are invited to come and help remove this paper.

We are having a work party and we hope you can join us. It shouldn't take too long. Most of the paper is loose and the room isn't large. Scrapers, buckets, sponges and plastic bags would be helpful things to bring along.

If that day is not convenient, please consider coming at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 3 to participate in the yard clean up. We'll be digging, raking, weeding and planting that morning, so plan to stop by and give us a hand.

Garden gloves, spades, trowels, rakes, clippers, watering cans, paper compost bags--bring them along if you have them. We will have tools available for you to use too.

Ella Grenier will head the Garden Committee this year. We are looking for helpers for her committee. If you enjoy gardening and would like to volunteer, please call me or the Historical Society (662-9092), or just show up on June 3 and we'll involve you in our summertime gardening activities.

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

LEND A HAND

Remove wallpaper in parlor
Thursday, May 25, 10 a.m.
at Museum on Main Street
500 North Main
Bring scraper, bucket, sponge if you have them.

Garden Clean-up Day
Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.
Bring your favorite garden tools or use ours.

MAIN STREET, ANN ARBOR

FROM SHOES, HARDWARE TO GOURMET DINING, ART GALLERIES

Through most of Ann Arbor history downtown was a very practical place where you got everyday things you needed. It was just recently that it became an area of restaurants and art galleries.

"I've done a lot of articles on specific downtown buildings [in the *Ann Arbor Observer*], Grace Shackman said in introducing her program on the evolution of Main Street to the April WCHS audience.

"I wanted to look at the bigger picture and see if I saw any bigger patterns. This is what is most fun about history is when things start fitting together and it's not just a collection of dates.

"Looking at downtown as a whole, I came to two conclusions:

1. Physical: It started in the Courthouse area and moved south so now the Courthouse area, though busy with Courthouse related things, is not really part of downtown as we know it.

2. Changes in merchandise: 19th century stores made more of their own things. They were factories as well as stores. Shoe stores made shoes, hardware stores made tin things, harness stores made harnesses right on the premises.

"Now something made in Ann Arbor, such as Minerva Chocolates and Clancy's Fancies, is a big deal.

"Of course, it got so everything was just retail, made in factories around the country.

"In some ways, it has sort of gone full circle because Ann Arbor used to be a place where all the people from the surrounding villages and farms came in. People tell me that on Saturday night farmers used to come in to go shopping and the stores would all stay open late.

"Now its got so people from surrounding suburbs come in and eat at Ann Arbor restaurants and wander the art galleries.

"A month or two ago when I went to Washington, I sat next to a fellow on the plane from a Detroit suburb. He knew more about Ann Arbor restaurants than I did.

"I'll start from the beginning and show you slides of around the Courthouse, then up and down Main Street."

Photos courtesy of Grace Shackman

This 1862 photo of Ann arbor has an old west flavor and a lot of leather business along its dirt streets and wooden sidewalks. It is the northwest corner of Main and Washington Streets, now law offices and Republic Bank and formerly B.E. Muehlig and Goodyear's Department Store.

She started with a map of Ann Arbor as laid out by John Allen and Elisha Rumsey in 1824. In order to attract settlers, they managed to persuade the powers that be to make it into the county seat by donating land for a courthouse and a jail.

"The Courthouse today is on the very same block of land bounded by Main, Huron, Fourth Avenue and Ann Street. It was on land owned by Allen.

"The jail square was put on land Rumsey owned along Liberty Street.

"Rumsey settled at Huron and First Streets and lived in a log cabin where Robby's at the Ice House is now.

"Allen built at Main and Huron a log structure big enough that when settlers came to settle they would stay there until they could clear some land and set up a structure for themselves. Main and Huron became known as 'Bloody Corners.'

"Until there were enough people that they had to build a courthouse, Allen used the courthouse square for growing vegetables to feed people who just came to town.

"The modern Courthouse today sits on the same land where John Allen grew his vegetables. In 1833 they built the first small Courthouse backing up to Ann Street and leaving a lot of open land in front and on the sides.

"The bottom floor was rented out to lawyers for offices. The court room was on the second floor. They also had public meetings there.

"There was a fence around the first Courthouse to keep animals out. They also used to tan hides on the fence and tie horses there when they came to town.

"The real point is that it was the center of town--that's where everybody came to meet.

"In 1861 when Fort Sumter was fired on and the Civil War started, people went down to the Courthouse to hear what happened. President Tappan of the University of Michigan spoke and gave his opinion."

She showed an 1861 picture of the large group of people gathered at that meeting on the open square, with Huron Street in back.

"It's one of the earliest pictures of Huron Street that we have. You can see how it's all stores with the Cook Hotel on the southeast corner of Huron and Fourth Avenue." Clothing stores and a bowling alley were identifiable.

"It was all just real practical stores which today it isn't.

"In 1878 they built a new Courthouse. As the population grew, the old Courthouse got too small. It took two votes to approve it. When it was built, it was a real show piece of the community. It had a clock tower and a wealthy person in town donated a Seth Thomas clock.

"It was right in the middle of the square but there was still a lot of empty ground around it. It had entrances on all four sides. There was a farmer's market on the Fourth Avenue side." A picture of a parade showed how much open ground there still was.

"There are lots of pictures of various groups meeting at the Courthouse." She showed pictures of troops going off to the Spanish-American War and a bicycle club.

"In this century the 1878 Courthouse got crowded again. The tower got shaky and they took part of the top off because they were afraid it would fall on somebody. The Main Street entrance was blocked off because the stairs weren't safe.

"I've seen pictures in the 1940s and '50s where they even made the lawn facing Main into a parking area.

"They started talking about replacing it even though, at its height, it was such a beautiful building, people weren't thinking about saving buildings in those days. They just thought it's not big enough, it's not in good shape, obviously we have to replace it..

"In the 1950s, Mayor William Brown said something like,' The Courthouse was built before the turn of the century--need I say more.'

"Having decided to replace it there was a lot of community debate about where it should be placed.

"People in the eastern part of the county suggested it should be put where the county recreation center is now. That used to be the County Poor Farm, later the County Hospital. The county owned that land so it could have been placed there and it would have been easier for Ypsilanti people to get there.

People from Chelsea and Dexter suggested the County Fairgrounds, now Vet's Park. But then, luckily, somebody discovered that the deed for the courthouse square said if it wasn't used for a courthouse it would revert to John Allen's descendants.

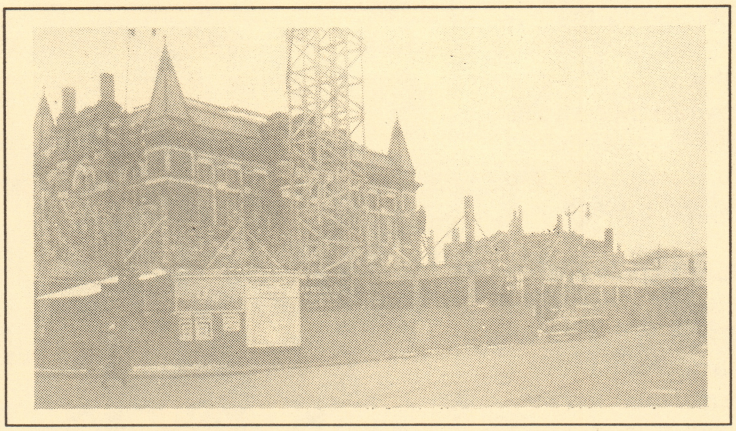
"That's what made them decide to stay downtown which I'm glad they did. I think it makes a difference to downtown to have the lawyers and title companies and jurors and whatever business there. It makes a vibrant downtown.

People tell me that in communities where they move the courthouse out of town, downtowns are a lot deader."

"Then, having decided they were going to build, there still was a question about what to do with the people working in the old courthouse while you are building the new one?

"They came to the ingenious solution of building the new around the old Courthouse, so the people kept working in the old while the new was being built.

"When they moved in the new Courthouse, they could move some things through the windows. Once they were in the new building, they took the old building down without hurting the new building. People tell me they held their breath the day they took it down. The old Courthouse site is now a parking lot for the new.



In the 1950s the present county building was built around the old 1878 Courthouse. When completed, the staff moved into the new and the old one was taken down for a parking lot.

"I'll take you around the Courthouse square to show you the area that was the center of town. Hardly anything is left from the old days.

"The block of Huron you saw on the slide of the Fort Sumter meeting was the real center of town. It used to be full of stores.

"In the 1860 city directory the stores were either in that block or the block of Main that goes south to Washington Street. Now that Huron block contains just the bank and the closed Ann Arbor Inn."

BLOODY CORNERS

In Ann Arbor's earliest days the corner of Main and Huron was known as 'Bloody Corners' not because of any real blood shed but because John Allen's blockhouse was painted blood red, according to the Washtenaw County History, 1881, page 884.

On completion of the blockhouse, Allen wrote to his wife that "it contained twenty families." The wife, thinking it was a large building came on and was surprised to see that the only partitions between the rooms of the occupiers were blankets."

An 1875 picture showed the Cook Hotel on that block of Huron. There was a hotel on that corner almost from the beginning. Then it became the Allenel, then the Ann Arbor Inn.

"You can see where that would be a very convenient location for people coming into town. The stores along there were always very practical stores.

"There was a grocery store across Fourth Avenue where the Embassy Hotel is now and, further on, a bakery."

In a picture of the Huron Block a few years later "you can see a drug store and the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank on the Main Street corner. Prochnow's, a very simple lunch place, was along there. I wrote an article about that."

"They served real stick to your ribs kind of food for people who came into town, probably dealing with the Courthouse or workmen. It was not a destination dining place.

"The Cook House was turned into the Allenel Hotel in 1911 in the same building. Additions had been built on the back of the hotel down Fourth Avenue.

"The Allenel was the major hotel in town. Morris Dalitz, a local real estate man, told me the Allenel never got a four star rating in the AAA travel book but it was always called 'the best available.'"

A 1950s picture of the Allenel showed it looking pretty much the same as before.

"Around the corner north on Fourth Avenue is the old YMCA building. During all the 19th century this block belonged to Chauncey Goodrich. He had a hotel and various stores in the building. It was in his building that they decided to incorporate the village of Ann Arbor in 1831 so it was an important building.

"It wasn't torn down until 1901 but I've never seen a picture of it. They tore it down to build the 'Y'." A 1916 picture showed the rest of the block.

Ann Street opposite the Courthouse was called the Hoban Block. It was

built 1868-72. According to the city directory there were grocery stores and saloons along there.

"You probably remember when it was all bars and respectable people wouldn't go there late at night. I also heard you could hear good music there if you were brave.

"The earliest picture I could find of the Ann Street block was taken after 1868 because you can see the corner of the Hoban Block along with the rest of the buildings. A small building next to the Hoban Block was used as a post office at one time." She showed a 1920s view also.

"More recently you probably remember when the Salvation Army Thrift Store was near the Ann-Main Street corner. Before that it was a grocery store.

"Before then the Beal Building was right on the corner. It was used for a post office and other offices and next to it was the *Ann Arbor Times-News* building built in 1918." She showed a close-up view of the very elaborate Beal Building.

"That was the spot where the third house was built in Ann Arbor after Allen's and Rumsey's. Asa Smith built a house there.

"Around the corner on Main Street north is the present Washtenaw County Administration Building which used to be the Post Office, built in 1909.

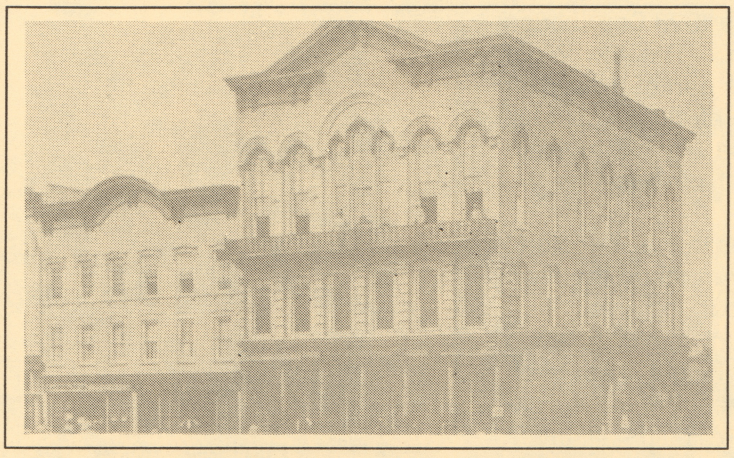
"Notice that it has five bays on the part that sticks out. It was originally built with just three bays. It's a very good addition. You can't tell that it was originally different.

"Before the post office there was a livery stable there. It makes sense that you would need one by the Courthouse, a sort of 19th century version of a taxi cab stand.

"The former Dr. Chase's Steam Printing Building on the northwest corner of Main and Miller is as far north as I'll go on Main Street. The first section of Dr. Chase's building was built in 1864, the rest in 1868.

"Dr. Chase had a best seller. He called it a recipe book but it was recipes for medical cures. As I learn more about 19th century medicine, I realize it probably wasn't as silly as it seems.

"They were folk remedies that he picked up in his travels. He started out as a peddler. I suspect some of them have some real medical basis or are, at least, predecessors of modern medicine; some are probably placebos.



Before the Mongolian Barbeque and Kresge's on the southwest corner of Main and Washington there was Hangsterfer Hall, a popular ballroom and meeting place before the turn of the century.

"Dr. Chase sold a lot of books and he built this building to print his book. He also started printing a newspaper. It is now Dobson-McOmber Insurance office.

"Behind, in a new building, is Johnson, Johnson and Roy, landscape architects. They fixed the Dr. Chase Building up, which was great, because it was falling apart and they were first to see the possibilities that it could be brought back to its former glory.

"But then, when they decided to build a more modern building and it was empty, people who like old buildings were worried what was going to become of it.

"The thing about preservation is that you can only preserve so many old buildings as museums. If you really want to keep a stock of old buildings you have to have modern uses for them.

"It was very nice when Dobson-McOmber decided to move back downtown and do some more restoration on it. In fact, it looks better today than the picture I showed."

She showed views of it in the 1880s and later when it became a wholesale grocery store.

"When the Courthouse was the center of town, there never would be a building a block-and-a-half from the Courthouse that run down because it would be very valuable land.

"It got to the point where it could be left like that as Ann Arbor's main center moved south along Main.

Moving south along Main, she showed a view of the Pardon Block opposite the County Administration Building (old Post Office). That block was built in the 1890s when there was a grocery store and a bakery there.

"The block on the west side of Main Street opposite the Courthouse was a very valuable block in the early days. Now half of it is a parking lot.

"Before it was a parking lot it was an exercise area for the jail. At one time it was a world class theater, believe it or not.

"From 1837 to about 1870 it was called the Exchange Building. It was exactly that. Farmers would come to exchange their produce. It burned in 1870. I've never seen a picture of it.

"It was an important building. From what I've read about it, it had space for 200 people to eat in the dining room and it had rooms to stay in.

"When it burned, the then owner, a man named George Hill for whom Hill Street was named, decided to build a theater. It was sometimes called the Athens Theater and sometimes Hill's Opera House. It was a very nice building with a mansard roof.

"In 1906 Bert Whitney bought it. It had gone down hill. Whitney brought it back up again and added two stories. It was a hotel and a theater.

"The people who performed there are a who's who of everyone you've ever heard of in theater of the time. Before radio and television, theater companies would tour the country."

She called attention to a fire escape on the side of the building. "People tell me you could get very cheap balcony seats if you went up the fire escape to, I guess, the fourth floor to buy your tickets. A lot of U-M students and young people in town took advantage of that."

"Toward the end of its life it became, I guess you'd say, a third rate movie theater, showing serials, not even 'B' movies. Then it was torn down because it was falling apart and it had

building violations. Talk of replacing it with a fancier theater never happened.

"Next door to the Whitney Theater could be, arguably, the most historic corner in the city because that is where John Allen's block house was. That is where everybody started and that is where the first store in Ann Arbor was.

"John Allen let a man named John Hereford have a little general store in one corner of his block house.

"When the city developed enough that they didn't need the block house, they built the Franklin House on the corner. It was there about 1839-62. It was a hotel with stores and a post office on the first floor.

"It was replaced by the Gregory House which some of you might know as the Municipal Court Building. It burned down about 1970." She showed an early picture of it.

"After the Exchange Building turned into a theater, they had a farmer's market behind the Gregory Building.

"I am struck by how many hotels there were in early Ann Arbor, even though the population was a lot lower than now. I think it was probably due to transportation--people would get here and not be able to get home the same day."

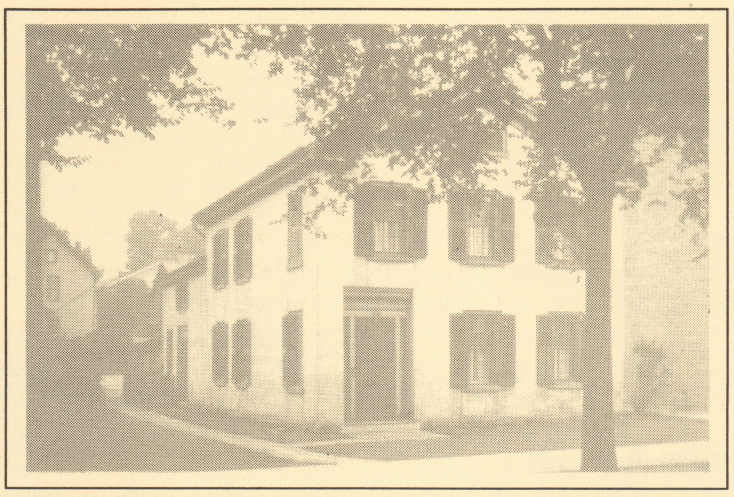
She showed a group picture of the Pioneer Society. "The book that I copied it from said it was in front of the Franklin House but I looked at the windows and I could see it was in front of the Gregory House."

In an 1880s view of that corner, Wahr's Bookstore was there and there was a street car on Main Street. She had several post card views.

"After the Municipal Court Building burned, the site was empty for quite a while. The Ecology Center built a park there. Now the 1 North Main Building is there."

Across Huron in the 100 block of South Main is the Glazier Building, built in 1906 by Frank Glazier. He owned a stove factory and a bank in Chelsea. He was active in politics. He held a lot of elective offices in the Chelsea area and then he won the office of state treasurer.

"He was still upset that he never could quite make his mark with Ann Arbor Republicans. He was going to make his mark in Ann Arbor by building this wonderful building--the tallest in Ann Arbor."



Miss Bertha E. Muehlig lived in this house at 315 South Main and walked to her business at 126. The house fell to progress in 1962.

She showed 1862 and 1880s views of that corner before the Glazier Building was there.

"It said in the paper that the owners of buildings there did not went to sell but Glazier finally offered them enough money that they couldn't refuse. The building is kitty-corner from the Courthouse, really fine real estate.

"Glazier spared no expense in buying the buildings there and putting up a state-of-the-art seven-story 'skyscraper,' of really fine materials.

"Right in the middle of it he went bankrupt. He had been borrowing money from a lot of different banks all on the same collateral--his stove company. Also, as state treasurer, he had been putting state money in his own bank. It became a big scandal and he ended up resigning. He lost the building although Ann Arbor still has it.

"Moving south down the block to Washington Street is what is probably best remembered as the Bertha Muehlig Building and Goodyear's Department Store. The buildings have been nicely restored."

In an 1862 picture of that corner, John Hathaway, who restored the Muehlig Building for an office, pointed out to Grace that all the businesses were leather related--harness shop, boot and shoe shop, and a leather store.

"I don't know if Ann Arbor had an unusually high number of leather stores but obviously leather was a big deal here. Of course we had lots of open space around Ann Arbor where people could catch animals and tan them.

"In the 1862, all wooden building , muddy streets and wooden sidewalks give it a frontier look. This must have been what all Ann Arbor looked like in the early years. It was in the 1890s that the streets were paved.

"Philip Bach built the corner store and the store we think of as Goodyear's was a bank originally. When Philip Bach's daughter wrote her reminiscenses, she said when coins would get stuck behind those wooden sidewalk planks no one could ever get them out."

Grace showed a comparatively recent picture of some of B.E. Muehlig's longtime employees standing in front of the store with Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Diez who took over after Miss Muehlig died. When Hathaway restored it he did it to look like the Bach days, not Muehlig's."

"Across the street on the east side was a major shopping area with a lot of stores in the early days. In the 1830s, Calvin Bliss had a jewelry store, supposedly the first store to specialize in one item."

"On the Washington Street corner was the Eberbach Hardware Store, the first to use plate glass windows to display its merchandise. Now there are two banks and a doctor's office on that block.

"Across Washington Street on the east side of Main, is the First National Building, built in 1929. It took the place of Wadham's Department Store on that corner.

"It was a real high class building and the offices were rented out almost immediately. Right after they built it, they built an addition to the south and were planning to add more. Then the depression hit and they couldn't even rent out the addition they had built.

"If you come in from the back side, the First National Building is not fancy marble. It's just plain yellow brick because they were planning on finishing it later.

"In later years it got sort of run down. Then Bill Martin restored it, which is great. A lot of the buildings in the rest of the 200 block were built in the 1860s and are still there, which, I suppose, is because they were used as stores all along.

"In the 1860 city directory I saw that no businesses went beyond Liberty Street." She showed an 1880s view of that block.

"Crossing to the west side of Main Street, the Mongolian Barbeque is now on that Washington Street corner. It was previously Kiddie Land and Kresge's. It was originally Hangsterfer Hall with a confectionery downstairs and upstairs a dance hall, meeting room and Ladies Library Association quarters."

"Further south on the block, Henry Krause, a tanner in town, had a store. On the northwest corner of Liberty and Main was Mack & Company, *the* department store in town. It went way back on Liberty and also used the top two floors of the Schwaben Verein on Ashley, connected with a walkway over the alley." She showed an 1880s view and a 1916 parade view.

The next [300] block began to develop in the 1870s.

"It's interesting that Ann Arbor supported all these stores all the way from the Courthouse. I think the reason was that even though Ann Arbor was smaller, this was it for stores. There were no strip malls or Briarwood or Arborland.

"If you look at old city directories, there might be a couple of stores down by the railroad tracks or one or two on State Street for the students but basically this was where you came to shop.

"Now Lovin' Spoonful ice cream store at 330 South Main is the only house building left on the block. At one time businesses were interspersed with houses."

The former Kline's Department Store at 306-12 South Main is being remodeled. Grace showed a picture of the original facade recently uncovered when the false front was removed. She called attention to the terra cotta work. The building was originally a corset factory.

"Schumacher Hardware was in part of the Kline's building after it was no longer a corset factory. Doris Schumacher Dixon loaned me this view."

"The south half of the block was taken up with William Maynard's estate. He was one of the early entrepreneurs of the town. He had an important general store and also was a real estate dealer.

"He laid out much of the Old West Side and he was one of the people who donated land to get the University of Michigan to come here.

"Maynard had fruit trees and ornamental trees and even peacocks. Well-known people in town dined there. It was an important social center at one time."

She showed a drawing of the house. It was a hotel for a little while, then the Elks club house and more recently the Civic Theater headquarters.

"I've read that the Elks was an important watering hole. Don McIntyre, who ran the Whitney Theater, used to go to the Elks every day for lunch. In summer they had a 'beer garden' outside where you could drink.

"You feel bad about old buildings being torn down but this one--you couldn't make out much of what was left of the Maynard home with the additions. Now Michael Vlasic is building an office building on the site.

"The last block in the show is the other side of the 300 block of Main. In the oldest picture she found (1870s) was Henry Binder's house on the southeast Liberty Street corner which he tore down and built a store. It was first a saloon and meeting place, then a bakery [then Hutzel's dress shop before it became an art gallery].

"Houses were interspersed with stores. Two houses in the middle of the block were Bertha Muehlig's and another smaller house owned by the Muehlig family.

"The Muehligs were an important family as you all know. They originally made furniture and caskets and the business evolved into a funeral parlor. Miss Bertha Muehlig had her dry goods store and the small house was torn down for the Muehlig and Lanphear Hardware, now the Full Moon, 311 South Main.

"I end with this slide of Bertha Muehlig's house. It was built when Ann Arbor was beginning and it was torn down, I think in 1962. It shows the end of the downtown era and, also, the beginning of the preservation movement.

"Bertha Muehlig lived there until she died. She walked two blocks to her store every day until she died. At one time it was very common to live above your store or nearby.

"When she died no one wanted to buy her house as a residence and people weren't into appreciation of old buildings. Now it would be a great place for a restaurant.

"However, a lot of people were upset about tearing it down and it became a turning point. The Historic District Commission was founded and Kempf House was saved. People thought, we lost the Muehlig house, we're not going to lose the Kempf house. It was the end of the downtown era but the beginning of the preservation movement."

F.D.R.-TRUMAN EXHIBIT FROM KELLEY COLLECTION

An exhibit, "F.D.R. & Harry Truman: An Anniversary [50th] Tribute" opening July 5 at the Walter P. Reuther Library and Archive of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University will feature items from the collection of Dr. Douglas Kelley of Ann Arbor.

Dr. Kelley, who is working on grant proposals for the WCHS museum, has a large collection of political memorabilia dating back to Thomas Jefferson. The exhibit will continue through early September.

ART FAIR PARKING

WCHS needs volunteers to help park cars at Great Lakes Bancorp in off-business hours (Wednesday-Friday evenings and all day Saturday) during Art Fair in July. If you can help please call 662-9092.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to: WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are: individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

Board approved changes: as of April 19, 1995

Presented for approval of the General Membership at Annual Meeting: Wednesday, May 31, 95

BYLAWS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 7 **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**: Shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges as stated in Section 4 of this Article. *(In 1985, the membership voted to eliminate this class. But **Life Members** prior to this date would continue the privileges during their lifetime)*

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 5 **PRESIDENT**

The President shall:

e. Annually appoint chairmen and work with committee chairmen in selection of committee members for the following standing committees, **if needed**: Advisory, Audit, Budget/Finance, Bylaws, Collections, Education, Fund Raising, **Historian**, Liaison with other Historical Societies and Boards, Membership, Museum Shop, Museum Operating, Museum Restoration/ Maintenance, Nominating, Program, Publicity and Public Relations, Refreshments, Resolutions, and any special committees as may be considered necessary by the President or the Board of Directors.

f. Shall recommend two (2) members to the Endowment Fund Committee in accordance with Article X, Sections 2 and 3, for approval of the Board of Directors.

g. Shall annually appoint a Parliamentarian.

(f) *h*. Because the Society maintains a safety deposit box, the key shall be in the custody of the President. To access said box two (2) members of the Board must be present.

ARTICLE VIII: APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 1 **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** The Parliamentarian shall be familiar with parliamentary law and protocol. She/he shall be present at all Board of Directors' meetings and any other meetings as requested by the President. He/she shall act in an advisory capacity to the President. He/she shall serve without the right to vote at the Board of Directors' meetings unless he/she is there serving in a dual position as an officer or director.

HENCEFORTH ALL FOLLOWING ARTICLES WILL BE RENUMBERED

ARTICLE X: MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

Section 1 ***MISSION STATEMENT:*** *The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide restricted and segregated funds solely for the preservation of the Museum Building.*

Section 2. The Endowment Fund shall be administered by the Endowment Committee comprised of the President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, two (2) from the Board of Directors (NOT Directors-at-Large) and two (2) members from the general membership. The Endowment Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary.

Section 3. In the year the Endowment Fund is established, the general membership shall elect two (2) members. One (1) elected member shall serve a one-year term and one (1) elected member shall serve a two-year term. Thereafter, annually, the general membership shall elect a member to serve a two-year term. Terms may be renewable. In the event of resignation or death of an elected member, the position shall remain vacant until the next annual meeting or special election.

Two Museum Endowment Committee members shall be elected by the general membership. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint two directors to this committee. I n the year the Endowment Fund is established, the President shall appoint one (1) director for a one-year term and one (1) director for a two-year term. Terms may be renewable in conjunction with the Director's term on the Board of Directors. In the event of resignation or death of an appointed Director, a replacement shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE X: MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND *(continued)*

Section 4. The Endowment Committee shall be responsible for promotion and management of the Endowment Fund, such as: special campaigns, brochures, and marketing. The Board of Directors may authorize expenditures from the Museum Fund for promotional materials and activities for the Endowment Fund.

Section 5. The Endowment Committee shall meet annually, or more often as needed to administer the Endowment Fund properly. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall report on the Endowment Fund balance at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Endowment Committee Chairman shall report to the Society at the Annual Meeting. The Committee's recommendations involving financial transactions shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Endowment Fund shall consist of designated contributions, interest on the principal, and up to 5.00% (five percent) of total dues received by June 30 of each year. All income shall be invested in the Endowment Fund until the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, determines that the income may be used in accordance with Section 1 of this Article.

Section 8. All income from the principal shall be reinvested in the Endowment Fund until the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, determines that the income may be used. When Endowment Fund income is used, it shall be used in accordance with this document, and only for capital projects. A capital project is one in which the physical result is expected to last for five (5) years or longer.

Section 9. Invasion of the Endowment Fund principal shall occur only under emergency circumstances as determined by the Board of Directors such as any of the following: loss of the Museum building; the necessity of construction or acquiring another building. Such decision to invade the Endowment Fund principal shall require the recommendation of the Board of Directors and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at a General Meeting of the membership for which notice shall have been sent not less than two (2) weeks in advance. The principal shall not be invaded for operational purposes under any circumstance.

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES

Section 8 **HISTORIAN**

The Historian shall chronicle the activities of the Society and it shall include photographs, newspaper releases, roster of officers and members, and any other miscellaneous information that he/she feels would be of interest. This information shall be maintained under archival conditions.

ARTICLE XII: MEETINGS and QUORUM

Section 1 Meetings of the membership for educational, cultural, or social purposes shall be called by the President, customarily six to eight (6 to 8) times a year. Business at such meetings involving the expenditure of funds or determination of policy shall only be voted on by a quorum of members in good standing. A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the membership but not less than twenty (20) members in good standing as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 as determined by the Corresponding Secretary and approved by the Board of Directors. If a quorum is established at the beginning of a meeting it is considered a quorum throughout.

PROPOSED CHANGES: APRIL 4, 1995

Board approved: Wednesday, April 19, 1995

NOMINEES FOR 1995-96

Vice-President Susan Cee Wineberg has been nominated for president of WCHS for 1995-96, succeeding Patricia Austin who will be Immediate Past President.

Other nominees are Judy Chrisman, recording secretary, Patty Creal, treasurer and Alice Ziegler, *Impressions* editor. Vice-president and corresponding secretary nominees to be announced.

Nominated to three-year terms on the Board of Directors are Rosemarion Blake, Olive (Bets) Hansen, Arlene Schmid and Esther Warzynski.

The nominating committee is composed of Arthur French and Rosemarion Blake, co-chairs with Patty Creal,, Maya Savarino, Pauline Walters and Susan Wineberg.

MUG, MAGNET FOR SALE TO HELP MUSEUM

WCHS now has an attractive blue and white coffee or tea mug and a black and white refrigerator magnet for sale to benefit the Museum (To Be) on Main Street.

Both feature the museum's front door logo. The mug also says " Washtenaw County Historical Society." The magnet bears the slogan: "Explore Your History: Museum on Main Street." They will be for sale at the annual meeting.

The cup sells for $5, the magnet for $1, tax included. To order by mail please send check or money order to: Patricia Austin, 1931 Coronada Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Please include postage and handling, 50 cents for the magnet and $5 postage and handling for the mug in Michigan or $6.50 out of state.

PLEASE COLLECT KNAPP'S POINTS THIS SUMMER

Readers have turned in 1,470 Bill Knapp's Restaurant points to date toward WCHS's next goal and we hope you will continue to collect them this summer. The specific goal will be set soon.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time, with one point given for each dollar spent. Please keep collecting and give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Manchester Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday, Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Dedication of John Swainson Room in shop May 16.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday, Hack House, 775 County Street.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25, Salem Township Hall. Evelyn Gibbons of Dixboro will display and talk about her button collection.

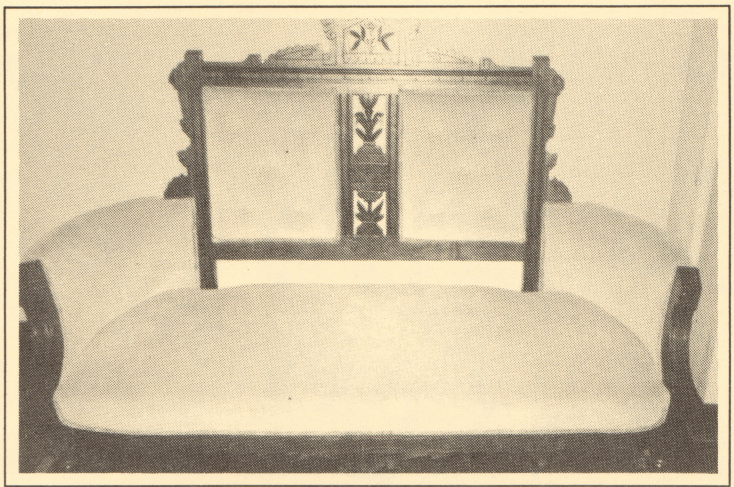
The society will mount an historical exhibit at the Township Hall for the annual Flag Day celebration June 9-10.

Saline Society: The society is working toward dedication of its Depot Museum at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 4, the 125th anniversary of the railroad coming to Saline.

The Depot was placed on the National Register of Historic Places last June 17.

GARDEN WALK JUNE 10

The Ann Arbor Branch of the National Farm and Garden Association will sponsor the fifth annual garden walk featuring six local gardens Saturday, June 10. Proceeds will go to Safe House. Tickets $8 each, two for $15. For ticket information call 663-2339.



The Victorian settee (left), a matching chair, and a playable pump organ have been given to WCHS by Letitia Byrd. They are from the family of her late husband, David Byrd, an architect. Settee and chair are covered in yellow velvet.

READERS ASKED TO NOMINATE LOCAL PERSONS ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT FOR HONOR ROLL

Readers, do you know of any Washtenaw County residents who were active in the Women's Suffrage Movement?

Women won the right to vote 75 years ago on August 26, 1920, when the 19th Amendment was ratified. In anticipation, the League of Women Voters was founded February 14,1920.

The Michigan Women's Studies Association, Inc.., of Lansing is putting together an Honor Roll of Michigan women and men who were active in the movement and they ask our help in identifying local persons who should be included.

Susan Wineberg, WCHS vice-president, found a program of the Ann Arbor Equal; Suffrage Club 1911-1912 in a scrapbook of H.W. (W for Wirt) Newkirk at Bentley Historical Library.

Newkirk, an attorney, former probate judge, sometime Michigan legislator and U.S. Senate gallery doorkeeper, spoke to the club on "The Powers of Congress" in January 1912.

Sara A.C. Plummer, wife of William H., was club president; Florence Wilson Signore, vice-president; Anna R. Schumacher, wife of Burt F., secretary; and Ellen M. Georg, wife of Dr. Conrad Georg, treasurer.

City directories of 1911 and 1912 say Schumacher owned Schumacher Hardware. They do not list Mrs. Signore or Mary L. Doe whom the program says organized the club in 1910.

Mrs. Plummer and Mrs. Georg were re-elected the next year according to the *Ann Arbor Times-News*, March 16, 1912. Others elected were Mrs. W.C. Vaughan and Dr. A.B. Warthin, first and second vice-presidents, respectively; Miss Mary Hinsdale, recording secretary; and Mrs. Maria Peel, corresponding secretary.

The Honor Roll will be displayed in the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing and included in a second volume of *Michigan Women: Firsts and Founders* to go to press in late summer.

They ask that names for the honor roll along with copies of any supporting documentation be sent to: "Honor Roll", Michigan Women's Historical Center, 213 West Main Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2315 by June 30. Their phone number is (517) 372-9772.

Incidentally, while Washtenaw can't claim her, Florence Belle Brotherton of Detroit, the founder of the Michigan League of Women Voters, was the grandmother of David K. McKinney of Ann Arbor, husband of Nancy McKinney, WCHS collection chair.

WCHS would also like a copy of reader's nominees for our records and any additional information on those mentioned in this article. Please see Editor's address on back page.

WCHS Bus Tour of Sharon Township

Saturday, June 10, 1995

Fee $25 for WCHS members • $30 for non-members (includes luncheon).
Reservations due Thursday, June 1. Send check or money order to:
WCHS Tour • P.O. Box 3336 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Please make reservations for _____ persons. Total enclosed: $_____

Name(s):_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip: _____

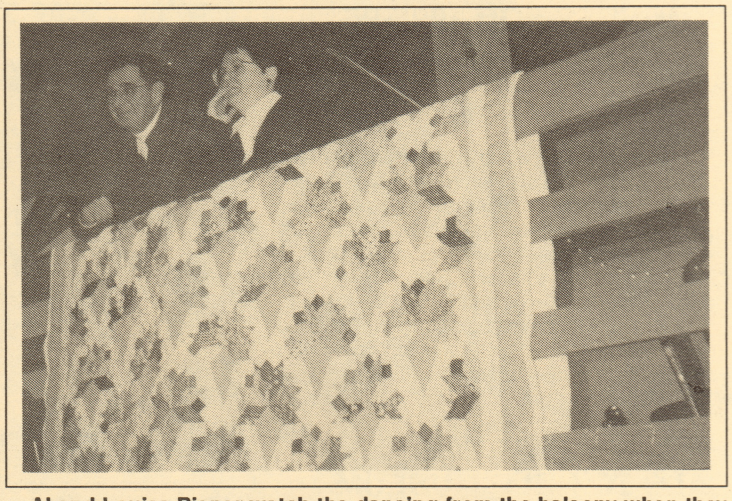
Phone: _____

Please list name(s) as you wish them to appear on name tags:

_____

_____

Patricia Austin (left), Susan Wineberg, Lucille Fisher and Esther Warzynski at the quilt and wreath raffle ticket table where the latter two sold tickets.



Al and Louisa Pieper watch the dancing from the balcony when they weren't dancing themselves

BARN DANCE FUN BENEFITS WCHS TO TUNE OF $2,371 THANKS TO DEBORAH HILDEBRANDT AND COMMITTEE

It was a fun, fun barn dance and after the last do-si-do and waltz, WCHS's Museum on Main Street benefited to the tune of $2,371.03.

The Raisin Pickers, a traditional country dance band, played squares and contras called by Robin Warner. Tomas Chavez taught a line dance.

As everyone munched box lunches during intermission, Downs Herold auctioned celebrity baked goods, a quilt and wreaths were raffled and door prizes awarded.

The wreaths, quilts and a few bales of hay carried out the country barn dance theme in the Cobblestone Farm Barn.

Many thanks are due to Deborah B. Hildebrandt, chair, and her committee. The members were Patricia Austin, Gail Bauer, Anne S. Benninghoff, Jeannette Brock, Patricia Creal, Elizabeth Elling, Merilyn Goetz, Peggy Haines, Sondra Herold, Karen O'Neal, Joanne Rebeck, Maya Savarino, Pauline Walters and Susan Wineberg.

JOHN ALLEN'S FATHER FIDDLED AT FIRST DANCE HEREABOUTS

The first dance among the earliest settlers of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor occurred on or about January 1, 1826, at Elisha Rumsey's public house, according to the Washtenaw County History, 1881 (pages 1101-02). Mrs. Hildebrandt read the actual quotation at the recent benefit barn dance.

Ypsi young people came by sleigh and 'jumpers,' made of poles because there was only one sleigh, brought from New York State, in the vicinity.

They induced John Allen's father, who owned a violin, to play. "He was then an old man with locks as white as snow."

The dancing was upstairs. A long table upon which was spread an excellent supper, monopolized most of the room below. "A good, jolly time was had. A lasting impression was left on the Ypsilanti guests that Mrs. Rumsey was an excellent cook and Mr. Rumsey knew how to keep a hotel."

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Mailing: Louisa Pieper,996-3008
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WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL POTLUCK
WEDNESDAY • MAY 31, 1995
DIXBORO METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL BUS TOUR
SHARON TOWNSHIP
SATURDAY • JUNE 10, 1995
(SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS)

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